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## MILLOM URBAN DISTRICT.

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Annual Report by the Medical Officer of  
Health for the Year 1925.  
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### I.—Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (acres), 1463.

Population (Census, 1921), 8709.

Population (estimated 1925), 8665.

Number of inhabited houses, 1921.

Number of families or separate occupiers, 1921.

Rateable value, £50,233.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £209 6s.

**Social Conditions, &c.**—The District is low-lying, and is situated at the southern extremity of the County of Cumberland, between the hills and sea, or, rather, the estuary of the River Duddon. It touches the Bootle Rural District on its landward side, and includes the town of Millom and the sea-side village of Haverigg, about a mile distant. The male population is employed mainly at the local Iron Ore Mines, or the local Blastfurnaces. A smaller number of the inhabitants find employment at Barrow-in-Furness, 16 miles distant by rail. The remainder of the population includes officials, professional men, shopkeepers, tradesmen, farmers



and labourers. The occupations of the inhabitants are generally of a healthy character, and have no adverse influence on public health.

**Vital Statistics for 1925 :—**

		Total	M.	F.		
Births	{	Legitimate	126	63	63	{
		Illegitimate	3	2	41	
Deaths	...	...	110	45	65	Death Rate, 12.7
Number of women dying in, or			{	from sepsis	...	None
in consequence of, childbirth				from other causes...		3

Deaths of Infants under one year of age, per 1000 births : Legitimate, 93 ; Illegitimate, — ; Total, 93.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) : None.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) : None.

Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) : 2.

**Poor-Law Relief.**—Out-relief to persons within the Urban District was paid during 1925 as follows :—

To unemployed	£2516
To ordinary cases	£4185
	<hr/>
Total out-relief	£6701
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## II.—General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

**Hospitals** provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

**Tuberculosis.**—Blencathra Sanatorium, at Threlkeld, near Keswick, about 54 miles distant by rail, is provided by



the County Council. Juvenile cases requiring sanatorium treatment are sent to Stannington Sanatorium in Northumberland by the County Authority for this district. Provision for the institutional treatment of terminal cases belonging to this area is very much wanted, the only place where such cases can be sent at present being the Workhouse Infirmary.

**Maternity.**—There is no maternity hospital.

**Children.**—There is no hospital for children.

**Fever.**—There is a Fever Hospital at Crab Marsh, within the Urban District, controlled by the Millom and Bootle Infectious Diseases Hospitals Joint Committee. The members of this Committee are appointed by the Millom Urban District Council, the Bootle Rural District Council, and the Bootle Board of Guardians. The Hospital Buildings comprise a galvanised iron and timber structure used for Scarlet Fever, with two wards and 18 beds, and a more modern (concrete and asbestos) fireproof building containing four wards and 16 beds for cases of Diphtheria and Enteric Fever.

**Smallpox.**—There is a building of tarred timber provided by the Infectious Diseases Hospitals Committee for cases of Smallpox. Situated three or four hundred yards from the Isolation Hospital, at Crab Marsh, it is capable of accommodating 12 to 16 patients. Nursing staff and equipment would have to be provided in case there should be necessity to use it.

**Other Hospital Accommodation.**—The Hodbarrow Mining Company, Ltd., provide a Hospital for accidents which occur amongst the men whom they employ.

General Medical and Surgical Hospital Treatment can be obtained at Whitehaven (West Cumberland Infirmary).



Barrow-in-Furness (North Lonsdale Hospital), or Ulverston (Cottage Hospital). Special Hospital Treatment is usually obtained at Leeds, Liverpool, or Manchester.

There is no Institutional Provision for the treatment or care of unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, or homeless children in the district.

**Ambulance Facilities.**—(a) For infectious cases: Infectious cases are conveyed to the Fever Hospital by horse transport. While this method is found to be fairly satisfactory within the Urban District, the journeys being short, it is a tedious and unsatisfactory process in the Bootle Rural District, where the transport of a patient involves a distance frequently of twenty, or even more, miles each way. A motor ambulance would therefore be a great improvement. (b) For non-infectious and accident cases: There is a Ford motor ambulance, acquired and kept up by voluntary subscriptions, for the transport of these cases.

**Clinics and Treatment Centres.**—There is a combined Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, School Clinic, and Tuberculosis Dispensary, administered by the Health Committee of the Cumberland County Council. These premises consist of four rooms in a small dwelling-house situated at 80 Lapstone Road, Millom.

**Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:—**

- (1) Medical Officer of Health (part-time): John Pratt, D.S.C., L.R.C.P., and S.I. Contribution made to salary by County Council.
- (2) Sanitary Inspector (also Surveyor): Charles A. Haynes. Contribution made to salary by County Council.
- (3) Meat Inspector (part-time): R. W. Glaister, M.R.C.V.S.





**Professional Nursing in the Home.**—(a) General. The Millom Nursing Association, an organisation of a semi-charitable character, provides a nurse for its members on payment of a small yearly subscription, and for non-members at a moderate charge. (b) For Infectious Diseases. There are no arrangements for the nursing of infectious cases in the home.

**Midwives.**—The Local Authority does not employ, or subsidise, a midwife. During 1925 there were two certified registered midwives practising in the District.

**Chemical Work.**—There are no arrangements for chemical work or public analysis within the District.

**Legislation in Force.**—In addition to general Acts and Orders, relating to public health, the following Local Acts, Orders, Adoptive Acts, and Bye-Laws are in force in the District :—

Adoptive Acts :—

Private Street Works Act, 1892.

Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1890 (par. 2, 3, 4 & 5).

Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1907 (par. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 10).

Public Libraries Act (superseded by General Act, 1919).

Bye-Laws :—

Millom Local Board General Bye-Laws (3 Aug., 1878).

Millom Hackney Carriage Bye-Laws (21 April, 1909).

Millom Pleasure Ground Bye-Laws (30 Sept., 1921).

Millom Urban District Council Market Bye-Laws (15 Aug., 1923).

Millom Offensive Trades Bye-Laws (21 Nov., 1923).

New Streets and Buildings Bye-Laws (June, 1924).



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Regulations :—

Gas Supply Regulations (29 June, 1875).

Dairies and Cowsheds Regulations (6 April, 1887).

Water Supply Regulations (20 May, 1908).

Fire Brigade Regulations (16 June, 1920).

### III.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

**Water.**—The water for the Urban District is collected in a reservoir at Bason Bank, five or six miles from Millom. The area from which the water is collected is uninhabited fell, with some agricultural land, in the immediate neighbourhood of the Reservoir. There is one farmstead on the collecting area, the buildings being not more than a quarter of a mile from the reservoir, and within a hundred yards or so of the stream which forms the main feeder. Besides, the farm buildings are on elevated ground, and in such a position that the natural surface drainage from about the buildings would flow directly into this stream. A Special Report on the possibility of pollution of the water supply was made (February, 1924) by the Medical Officer of Health, which went to show that the position with regard to the possibility of contamination from Knott End Farm was not satisfactory; and various Bacteriological Reports on the water were obtained which shewed that the water was, in fact, polluted with sewage. During the Summer of 1924 an Inspector of the Ministry of Health made an inspection of the Reservoir and the Farm Buildings; and, as a result, the Ministry of Health advised the demolition of the Farmstead. The Urban Council, however, decided on a less drastic measure, and the Water Manager of the Council has carried out some alterations in an effort to render more perfect the system which is intended to intercept and purify the sewage and



surface water from the buildings. In spite of these alterations, I am not satisfied that all risk of pollution from this source has been removed. The Reservoir has a capacity of 28 million gallons, but as it is not considered advisable to use the water below the nine foot level, the effective storage capacity is 18 million gallons, or 65 days' supply at 30 gallons a head. Though the supply of water has not failed so far, during periods of prolonged drought the diminished quantity of water in the Reservoir has frequently given rise to some uneasiness. In 1921 a public meeting was held, and subsequently a poll was taken under the provisions of the Borough Funds Act, 1872, in order to ascertain if the Parochial Electors were in favour of the promotion of a Bill in Parliament to obtain powers to increase the storage capacity of the waterworks; but in both cases there was a majority against the promotion of the Bill. An alternative scheme, namely, to make use of the water from White Combe Beck to augment the present supply has been suggested. Samples of water from this source have been subjected to analysis, and have been reported favourably upon. And for some years now a guage has been in operation so as to ascertain the quantity of water available from this source under varying weather conditions. And here the matter rests at present. The water in the Reservoir is soft, and contains a variable amount of earthy matter which is deposited to some extent on standing. It is conducted to the town in iron pipes, and each dwelling-house has a separate supply. During 1925 a new 12-inch main (replacing one of 8 inches diameter) was laid from Ghyll Scaur to Millom, money being borrowed for this purpose. There have been no indications of contamination by lead, and there has not been, so far as I am aware, any epidemic of disease which has been traced to the water supply; certainly not within the last ten years.



**Rivers and Streams.**—Except for the possibility dealt with in the preceding paragraph, there is no pollution of rivers or streams likely to cause danger to public health.

**Drainage and Sewerage.**—This is on the combined system, the storm and surface water being carried with the sewage. There are six separate sewer systems, three of which discharge into the tidal portion of Salthouse Pool, and three into the tidal portion of Haverigg Pool. The sewer outfalls are uncovered at low water. The sewage is untreated.

**Closet Accommodation.**—Nearly all the houses in the District are provided with water closets connected with one or other of the sewers mentioned above. There are thirty houses with dry privies ; these are isolated cottages, or it is impracticable to obtain the necessary fall for the sewer connection. The privies are emptied by the Council's workmen.

**Scavenging.**—House refuse and ashes are collected in fixed receptacles or ashpits. These are cleared periodically by the Council's workmen, and the contents removed by steam wagon to a " shoot " at Whitriggs, some distance from the town. There is no refuse destructor.

**Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**—The Sanitary Inspector reports that he has made 281 inspections, with remedy of defects, as follows :—

- 25 W.C.'s cleared or repaired.
- 2 Yard Drains cleared or repaired.
- 3 Slopstone Pipes cleared or repaired.
- 2 Slopstones renewed.
- 1 Yard Paving relaid.
- 1 Water Supply to house relaid.





**Removal of House Refuse.**—The Sanitary Inspector reports that ashpits have been emptied regularly, the number of removals being 32,719, contained in 2527 loads of refuse.

**Smoke Abatement.**—It has not been considered necessary to take any action with a view to abatement of nuisance from smoke.

**Schools.**—The sanitary condition and water supply is chiefly under County supervision. It is generally satisfactory.

#### **IV.—Housing.**

(1) **General Housing Conditions in the Area.**—General Housing conditions, for a mining district, are good. Rents are comparatively reasonable, and housing amenities compare favourably with mining districts generally. There are now some empty houses in the District, and the number of houses compared with population does not indicate overcrowding. The population now is considerably less than it was when hostilities ceased in 1918, and no great change is to be anticipated in population in the near future.

(2) **Overcrowding.**—There are not many cases of overcrowding, and where it has occurred it has appeared to be rather from choice than from inability to find alternative accommodation. No special action has been found necessary, nor is such contemplated, to deal with overcrowding.

(3) **Fitness of Houses.**—While there are several houses in the District whose condition is unsatisfactory, the general standard of fitness in the area is good. The character of the defects found may be divided into :—(a) Inherent Structural Defects. The chief defect met with is dampness, often due to the absence of a proper damp course in the walls.



(b) Defects due to Waste and Neglect. These take various forms: roof defects, defective water closets, defective ash-pits, broken yard paving, and the like. These latter defects may be due to waste and neglect on the part of the tenant, or to neglect to effect necessary repairs on the part of the owner. Often both these causes are at work, and frequently where there are glaring defects of this nature the tenant is far in arrears with rent, or paying none, and the owner, owing to the financial position of the property, can only be with difficulty persuaded to do the most urgent repairs. Legislation introduced during the past ten years or so, with the object of helping the small tenant seems, by making it more difficult for the owner to obtain possession, to have aggravated the difficulty. For tenants who do not pay their rents appear content to remain in the houses, in spite of the undesirable condition in which they may be in, and the owner is naturally disinclined to spend money on repairs when he is not receiving rent.

**Difficulties found in Remedying Unfitness.** — These seem to be due to the causes outlined above: non-payment of rent on the part of the tenant, and financial embarrassment of the property consequent thereon. The only suggestion that occurs to me to do away with the difficulty seems to be some system—State-aided or otherwise—to enable this class of tenant to become the owner of his house. It is generally observed that where the occupier is also the owner premises are in good order, and have a well-cared-for appearance. To carry a Closing Order into effect in this kind of case is difficult, as tenants who are known to be badly in arrears with their rent cannot easily obtain other homes. And as long as they remain in the houses dilapidations continue.

(4) **Unhealthy Areas.**—There are no parts of the District coming under this heading.



(5) **Bye-Laws relating to Houses,** Lodging Houses  
Tents, Vans, Sheds, &c.—New Streets and Buildings Bye-  
Law, 1924, is the only special Bye-Law under this head.

### Housing Statistics for the Year 1925,

Number of New Houses erected during the year :—

Total	...	...	...	...	None
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1. Unfit Dwelling-houses. Inspection :—

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	281
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were in- spected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	..	281
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(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	2
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(4) Number of dwellings (exclusive of those re- ferred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	67
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2. Remedy of defects without service of formal  
notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	13
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3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing  
Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of



which notices were served requiring  
repairs ... .. None

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were  
rendered fit after service of formal  
notices :—

(a) By owners ... .. None

(b) By Local Authority in default  
of owners ... .. None

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of  
which Closing Orders became operative  
in pursuance of declarations of owners  
of intention to close ... .. None

#### B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of  
which notices were served requiring de-  
fects to be remedied ... .. 34

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which de-  
fects were remedied after service of  
formal notices :—

(a) By owners ... .. 34

(b) By Local Authority in default  
of owners ... .. None

#### C. Proceedings under Housing Acts.

(1) Number of representations made with a  
view to making Closing Orders ... .. 2

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of  
which Closing Orders were made ... .. 2

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of  
which Closing Orders were determined,  
the dwelling-houses having been ren-  
dered fit ... .. None





- (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made... None
- (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... None

## V.—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) **Milk Supply.**—Milk is obtained from farms within the District, or close by. The supply is sufficient for the requirements of the inhabitants, and the milk is of reasonably good quality. Purveyors of milk are registered only after the Sanitary Authority is satisfied as to the condition of the premises to be used, and the dairies are visited from time to time by the officers of the Local Authority.

- (i) No action has been taken during the year as to tuberculous milk, or cattle.
- (ii) No licenses have been granted for the sale of “ Certified,” “ Grade A,” or “ Pasteurised Milk.”
- (iii) No registration to deal in milk has been refused or revoked.  
No licence to sell graded milk has been applied for, refused, or revoked.
- (iv) No bacteriological examination of milk has been carried out.

### (b) **Meat.**—

- (i) In compliance with Par. 3, Part I. thereof, the Local Authority put the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, into force in the Urban District, on 1st April, 1925, and a Meat Inspector was appointed to carry out the duties laid down in Part II. of these Regulations.



No slaughtering is permitted within the Urban District except in conformity with the above Regulations.

No system of marking meat has yet been adopted.

Disease in Meat.—During 1925 the Meat Inspector condemned the following carcasses, or parts thereof, which were accordingly destroyed :—

- 3 Tuberculous Carcasses of Beef.
- 1 Sheep.
- 35 lbs. of Frozen Beef.
- 53 Livers.
- 1 Set of Offals.

Disposal of Condemned Meat.—At first condemned meat was destroyed by burning at the Gas Works; but, as this method was unsatisfactory, arrangements have been made to have the destruction effected in one of the blast furnaces at the local Ironworks.

(ii) The administration of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, as regards stalls, shops, stores and vehicles is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, the Market Inspector, and the Police.

(iii) There is no Public Slaughter-house.

Private Slaughter-houses in the District :

	1920.	January, 1925.	December, 1925.
Registered	—	—	—
Licensed	9	7	7
	—	—	—
Total	9	7	7



(c) **Other Foods.**—Bakehouses and other premises where foods are manufactured, prepared, stored, or exposed for sale have been inspected periodically. They have been found on the whole to be in good order.

### VI.—Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Infectious Diseases Generally.  
Cases notified during Five Years.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Scarlet Fever...	2	36	39	6	17
Diphtheria ...	11	5	4	1	3
Enteric Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	14	13	19	10	17
Erysipelas ...	5	5	2	2	2
Tuberculosis ...	14	11	13	16	16
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	1	1	—
Chicken pox ...	not notifiable		33	not notifiable	

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied to Medical Practitioners in the District if required.

No primary vaccinations, or revaccinations, have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

The mortality from Influenza in the District during the past five years has been :—

Years :	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Deaths	4	5	6	8	1

There are no special facilities in the District for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons and their belongings. Premises exposed to infection are disinfected



by the Sanitary Inspector, and articles which cannot otherwise be dealt with are disinfected in the Steam Disinfector at the Fever Hospital.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)  
during the Year 1925 :

DISEASE.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.	CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL.	TOTAL DEATHS.
Smallpox ... ..	None	None	None
Scarlet Fever...	17	17	None
Diphtheria ... ..	3	3	None
Enteric Fever ... ..	None	None	None
Puerperal Fever ... ..	None	None	None
Pneumonia ... ..	17	None	3
Erysipelas ... ..	3	None	None
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	None	None	None

Ages at which the above notified cases occurred :

Scarlet Fever :—4, 4, 5, 5, 6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 8, 8, 9, 10, 10, 20, 22, and 55 years

Diphtheria :—12, 14, and 24 years.

Pneumonia :— $\frac{8}{12}$ , 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 18, 48, 67, 77, and 82 years.

Erysipelas :—22, 38, and 52 years.





**Tuberculosis.**

New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age-Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ... ..								
1 ... ..			1					
5 ... ..		1						1
10 ... ..		1						
15 ... ..	2			1				
20 ... ..		2		1	1	2		
25 ... ..		1	1	1			1	
35 ... ..	2				2			
45 ... ..	1				1			
55 ... ..		1						
65 and upwards ...								
Totals ... ..	5	6	2	3	4	2	1	1

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 :—

- (a) Enquiries have been made in order to ascertain if any person is employed, or occupied in connection with any dairy within the District in contravention of these Regulations. No person has been found to be so employed or occupied.
- (b) No notices have been served under Article 5 of these Regulations.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62 :—

No action has been taken under this Section and Act.



## **VII.—Maternity and Child Welfare.**

The Local Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme is carried out by the Health Department of the County Council.

There has been no Puerperal Fever, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, or Poliomyelitis during 1925. Nor have Measles, Whooping Cough, or Epidemic Diarrhœa been particularly prevalent.

## **VIII.—Factories and Workshops.**

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces have been inspected from time to time, and have been found generally to be in good order, and to comply with the regulations, as far as sanitation is concerned.

JOHN PRATT,

Medical Officer of Health,

Millom Urban District, Cumberland.

Millom.

12th March, 1926.



# Millom Urban Riparian Sanitary District

(PORT OF MILLOM.)



## Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1925.



The Port of Millom is situated in the Estuary of the Duddon. It is very difficult of approach from the sea, owing to shoals and sandbanks, and is only suitable for small vessels of light draught, and these can only enter and leave the Port at high tides. The trade of the Port is restricted to small vessels connected with the Iron Trade.

The local Hospital for Infectious Diseases is situated about two hundred yards from the Piers to which vessels using the Port are secured, and the existing facilities for preventing the importation and spread of disease are, having regard to the general circumstances of the Port, the vessels using it, and the cargoes carried by them, sufficient and satisfactory. The vessels calling at the Port do not carry passengers, and there has been no occasion for the cleansing and disinfecting of verminous persons and their belongings. Should such cleansing and disinfecting become necessary in the case of one or more members of the crew of a vessel entering the Port, it could be carried out at the Infectious Diseases Hospital before mentioned.



Amount of Shipping entering the Port Sanitary  
District during the year 1925.

CLASS OF VESSEL.	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number reported to be Defective	Number of Orders issued.	
			By the Medical Officer of Health.	By the Sanitary Inspector			
Foreign { Steamers Motor Sailing Fishing	37	7487	4	—	None	None	
	None	—	—	—	—	—	
	None	—	—	—	—	—	
	None	—	—	—	—	—	
Total Foreign.....		37	7487	4	—	None	None
Coastwise { Steamers Motor Sailing Fishing	36	6704	5	—	None	None	
	9	913	—	—	—	—	
	None	—	—	—	—	—	
	None	—	—	—	—	—	
Total Coastwise... ..		45	7617	5	—	None	None
Total Foreign and Coastwise		82	15104	9	—	None	None

**Rats.**—The class of vessels using the Port and the cargoes carried are not such as are likely to harbour rats. No rats have been observed, killed, or examined for disease.

**Infectious Disease.**—A member of the crew of one vessel was found to be suffering from Diphtheria. He was admitted to the Isolation Hospital.

**Shell-Fish Beds** in the Estuary are liable to pollution.





**Aliens** do not land at the Port.

**Trade** has occurred with the following Ports :—Belfast, Bray, Buckie, Cork, Dublin, Gairloch, Glasgow, Limerick, Liverpool, Rouen, Terneuzen.

**Principal Imports.**—Coal and Timber.

**Principal Exports.**—Pig Iron and Iron Ore.

JOHN PRATT,

Medical Officer of Health.

Millom.

12th March, 1926.

